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Davis Announces Hammond is Home to Fourth Certified Technology Park

HAMMOND, Ind. — The final component to Indiana's Northwest Technology Triad falls into place as Hammond links Indiana's premiere universities with the city's high-technology activity.

Today, Tim Monger, executive director of the Indiana Department of Commerce, joined Hammond Mayor Duane W. Dedelow, Jr., and Purdue University Calumet Chancellor Howard Cohen to announce that the city of Hammond has been awarded the status.

"This is an important day not only for Hammond, but for the state of Indiana. We're continuing to demonstrate that we are serious about developing high-technology companies in our state," said Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis, who oversees the state's economic development efforts as director of the Indiana Department of Commerce. "The creation of Hammond's Certified Technology Park, the existing Purdue Research Park in Merrillville and the establishment of the logistics initiative at the Ports of Indiana naturally create a high-tech triangle in Northwest Indiana."

A result of 2002's tax restructuring legislation, the new Certified Technology Park program encourages the location of high-technology businesses within areas identified by local redevelopment commissions. Portions of tax revenues generated by tenants are reinvested into the park and used for improvements, operation and maintenance of facilities, payment of interest and principal on bonds and other business-generating activities.

"The designation of downtown Hammond as a Certified Technology Park is another step in our efforts to promote the city as a place for high-tech businesses to locate," said Mayor Dedelow. "Our goal is to diversify Hammond's economy and bring in well-paying jobs while maintaining its historic manufacturing base, now and for future generations."

The city of Hammond has partnered with both Purdue University Calumet and Indiana University Northwest to further the objective of building technology-based entrepreneurship in Northwest Indiana. Both partnerships will involve a combination of faculty and student involvement with companies located in the Park.

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“Purdue Calumet is proud of our strong partnership with the city of Hammond in furtherance of economic development,” said Howard Cohen, chancellor of Purdue University Calumet. “We share in the excitement of Hammond receiving Certified Technology Park status. We anticipate this certification will help attract high tech firms to our city and also contribute to a broadening of internship opportunities for our students. Purdue Calumet faculty and staff will have opportunities to lend their expertise to new business creation and development.”

Any city, town or county with a redevelopment commission is eligible to have an area designated as a Certified Technology Park if certain requirements are met, including:

- Demonstrating the significant support of a research university;
- A commitment to the commercialization of products;
- Access and utilization of public and private resources in the park;
- The existence of, or proposed development of, a business incubator; and
- The development of a business plan or the assurance that the park will be used for high-technology business activity.

In addition, a firm commitment must be shown from at least one business primarily engaged in a high-technology activity creating a significant number of jobs that will locate within the park.

Hammond intends to leverage its unique geographic location to actively develop technology-based business services. The city adjoins Illinois and is located only 30 minutes from the heart of downtown Chicago, encouraging the location of companies wishing to sell into the Chicago market with Indiana cost structures. Lake County gives Indiana businesses a 30 to 40 percent cost advantage over businesses located in Cook County, Illinois.

“The 400 acres designated for the Hammond Technology Park footprint stretch across downtown and touch the Illinois state line,” said James Davis, president of the Hammond Redevelopment Commission. “We consider this designation a cornerstone in continuing our efforts to revitalize Hammond, the region and beyond.”

The prime location of Hammond’s Certified Technology Park will also offer Chicago companies off-site, secure disaster back-up sites close to home. In addition, the location both leverages and adds leverage to the announced Purdue initiative in Merrillville and the logistics initiative at the Ports of Indiana. Hammond forms the third point to create Indiana’s Northwest Technology Triad.

For more information on Indiana Certified Technology Parks and other community development efforts, please call the Indiana Department of Commerce’s Development Finance Office at 317.232.8898 or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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